The Philippine delegation thanks Italy for their leadership in proposing and negotiating the resolution Participation of the Holy See in the World Health Organization, and is glad to be a co-sponsor. In our view, the resolution simply institutionalizes an arrangement that we have had with the Holy See for many decades, and recognizes the positive contributions that the Holy See can bring in the discourse of global health. As Member States are in the process of negotiating an international instrument that will hopefully make COVID-19 the last global pandemic, the views and the voice of the Holy See, as an advocate for the poorest of the poor, will be invaluable.

We look forward to working with the Holy See and other Observers in the WHO to ensure a multi-sectoral appreciation of global health issues, and to the adoption of this resolution in this Health Assembly.

Thank you Chair.